

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, ENRG, UK

SUBJ: AVIATION FUEL AND BUNKER PROBLEMS IN US

1. SEPTTEL ON FUEL ALLOCATION PROGRAM PROVIDES GENERAL INFORMATION ON AVIATION REGULATIONS AS THEY APPLY TO INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES. MAIN PROBLEMS IN MIAMI ARE SEVERE CUTBACKS BY TEXACO AND CHEVRON IN BONDED FUEL DELIVERIES. FOREIGN AIRLINES - SUCH AS TAN, LACSA, ECUATORIANA, AIR FRANCE, AIR PANAMA - AS WELL AS PAN AM HAVE REPORTED FUEL SITUATION DESPERATE. MOST FEAR CURTAILMENT OF SERVICE OUT OF MIAMI BY EARLY JANUARY, WITH POSSIBILITY OIL CUTOFF MAY CAUSE FINANCIAL RUIN OF SEVERAL SMALL CENTRAL AMERICAN CARRIERS.

2. BOAC'S SUPPLIER IN MIAMI IS TEXACO, WHICH HAS APPARENTLY CUT DELIVERIES APPROXIMATELY 33. NATIONAL ALSO

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USES TEXACO AND HAS BEEN CUT AN EQUIVALENT AMOUNT AT

MIAMI. NATIONAL HAS INFORMED DEPT THAT ITS 33 CUT IS MORE DAMAGING TO IT THAN THE SAME CUT TO BOAC SINCE BOAC HAS SEVERAL GATEWAYS IN THE US THROUGH WHICH TXROUTE PASSENGERS. CUTS IN NATIONAL'S DAILY SERVICE, IN EFFECT, SUSPEND THAT CARRIER'S TRANSATLANTIC SERVICE FOR THOSE DAYS. WHILE IT TRUE NATIONAL PROBABLY HAS GREATER ACCESS TO FUEL STOCKS IN USA, IT ALSO TRUE BOAC HAS GREATER ACCESS TO SUCH STOCKS IN UK, DUE IN BOTH CASES TO CARRIER'S NATURE OF OPERATION. IN ORDER CONSERVE FUEL STOCKS, USG DEC 12 APPROVED ONE-TIME-ONLY BOAC FLIGHT ROUTING MIA-IAD-LON FOR DEC 13 SO THAT DULLES FLIGHT COULD BE CANCELLED AND WASHINGTON PASSENGERS UPLIFTED ON BOAC'S MIAMI-LONDON SERVICE.

3. PAN AM REPORTS THAT DUE TO SOME JUGGLING OF SCHEDULING AND CERTAIN FUEL CONSERVATION EFFORTS IT WILL BE ABLE MAINTAIN ADEQUATE LONDON SERVICE THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS. NATIONAL REPORTS IT EXPECTS TO CANCEL TOTAL OF SIX FLIGHTS IN DECEMBER.

4. ACCORDING MARAD, ARCADIA APPARENTLY CANCELLED CRUISE AND LAID UP IN VANCOUVER WHEN IT ENCOUNTERED SOME DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING BUNKERING AT SAN FRANCISCO. INEXPLICABLY SHIP'S AGENTS DID NOT CONTACT ANY USG AGENCY FOR ASSISTANCE, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING. DEPT WILL CONTINUE FOLLOW ARCADIA SITUATION. WE KNOW OF NO OTHER REPORTED SHIP STRANDINGS IN US PORTS. RUSH

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